

What is a bike boulevard?

Columbia is fortunate to have an extensive network of bikeways including shared use roads, on-street bike lanes and trails. Bike boulevards are intended to supplement bikeways by providing a safe, direct route, particularly where trails are not feasible.

A bike boulevard reduces the volume and speed of vehicle traffic on a residential road through a combination of calming features, traffic diversions, signalized pedestrian crossings, signs, lane striping and increased motorist awareness.

In addition to giving bicyclists priority, the striping on Columbia's bike boulevards encourages them to ride in the safest way possible. Often inexperienced bicyclists ride toward the extreme right side of the road, veering quickly left around parked cars. This can surprise a driver when a bicyclist all of a sudden "pops out" in front of them. It is much safer when a bicyclist is always visible and predictable. On the bike boulevards, bicyclists are directed to ride just to the right of the yellow center line where this is the case.

Motorists should straddle the white dotted line when there is space and bicyclists are not present. Bicyclists, on the other hand, should ride between the yellow dashed centerline and the white dotted line as shown in the diagram.

Passing bicyclists on a bike boulevard should be done with caution: the driver must give the bicyclist a wide berth. Therefore, the driver should move all the way into the adjacent travel lane (if it is clear) and should never pass within the same lane as the bicyclist.

Also, motorists should never pass a bicyclist on a bike boulevard when there is oncoming traffic. The motorist traveling in the same direction as the cyclist should yield to the oncoming traffic before attempting to pass a bicyclist. Motorists should also avoid passing a bicycle while passing a parked car. Instead wait until there is a safe amount of room to pass.

Please help us spread the word about how to use bike boulevards. You can find educational materials, location maps and more at CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Biking.

For more information, contact:

Columbia Public Works
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
573.874.2489
pubw@como.gov

